

The Democracy and Human Rights Fund

Overview

The Democracy and Human Rights Fund (DHRF) provides assistance through grants to local organizations to implement small, short-term, high impact activities targeted at supporting democratic institutions, political pluralism, and the protection and advocacy of human rights in African countries. The project, authorized in 1991 by the Congress of the United States, under the Foreign Assistance Act, complements other funding mechanisms that support larger, multi-year initiatives as part of the U.S. Government's overall strategy to promote democracy and improved governance. The DHRF program is administered through the Political Office at the United States Embassy in Lomé.

Criteria for Grant Eligibility

All DHRF funded activities must have a substantive link to the promotion of democracy or human rights.

DHRF encourages activities or projects that promote:

- Training about or change in civil and political rights
- Adherence to the rule of law through a legal framework conducive to civil and political rights
- Free and democratic electoral systems
- Development of democratic principles and institutions that promote human rights
- Increased participation of women and ethnic groups in the judicial system and political process

Activities NOT Eligible for Grants

In general the fund is not intended to support on-going activities, or long-term institutional development, of organizations or government bodies, even though these may be in support of democracy or promotion of human rights.

The grant cannot be used for the following activities:

- To influence the outcome of elections
- To support specific political parties
- Training or advice to support police, prisons or other law enforcement forces, military or any program of internal intelligence or surveillance
- For building construction, vehicle purchase, long term (more than 12 months) recurring administrative costs such as building or equipment maintenance, rent, office supplies, or administrative salaries
- For conferences or workshops that lack a specific and clear goal; economic development projects; and social or cultural rights activities or humanitarian assistance.

Grant Amounts

Grants will be no larger than US\$25,000; however, projects typically funded range from US\$10,000 to US\$15,000.

Funds can only be used to fund activities outlined in the signed agreement.

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Application Process

Every proposal must include:

- A completed DHRF application, available in English or French.

Submission Period: Proposals are accepted through *December 31st* yearly to be considered for that year's funding and can be emailed to sshlome@state.gov or sent to:

**U.S. Embassy
Development Office
B.P. 852
Lomé, Togo**

Selection Period: Grantees are typically selected in April of each year.

- Projects must be completed and all funds expended within one year of receiving grant.
- Even if the project and organization satisfy the criteria, not all projects submitted will necessarily be accepted.
- Even those accepted may not receive the total amount requested.

Questions?

Interested parties may email the Development Office anytime or call to speak with a Development Office employee during the office hours listed below. By previous arrangement, you are invited to visit the Development Office with any questions you may have on the last Tuesday of the each month from 2pm – 4pm.

It is imperative that you have made an appointment beforehand via email or telephone; otherwise you will not be on the access list and will not be allowed to enter the U.S. Embassy compound.

Email: sshlome@state.gov

Telephone: 22 61 54 70 (Available hours: Mondays and Thursdays 10am – 12pm)